"If" Particle in English – Arabic Translation A Pragmatic Study

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1. *Introduction*:

In conversation, people use different speech acts to express their attitudes and reactions toward others in order to achieve some effect on them. Conditional speech act is one of these acts which will be the main goal in the current study. The translation of conditional, however, is not without problems due to the fact that different meanings of conditional can not be easily understood by non-professional translators. So they can not convey them into Arabic adequately. Context is supposed to play an important role in determining the equivalent translation of source text (ST).

This study aims at studying "if" particle pragmatically (from speech act theory perspective) in English and Arabic as well as the different meanings which can be achieved by this particle in accordance with the situational contexts and different possibilities of translating them into Arabic.

To achieve the above mentioned aims, the study hypothesizes that there is no one to one correspondence between "if" particle in English and Arabic since the system of conditionals in both languages differs due to the fact that both English and Arabic are of different origins. It is also hypothesized that "if" particle can not be sometimes understood as conditional since it involves different meanings: condition and time. Finally, it is assumed that context might be very helpful in the process of translating "if" particle since it

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enables the translator to specify what meaning is intended and what is not.

To test the validity of these hypotheses, conditional sentences have been selected from Arther Miller’s A View from the Bridge (1957). Two translations of Arther Miller’s by Sabah (1999) and Abullail (2002) have been chosen, and then TL renderings analyzed according to their pragmatic features to show the similarities and differences between the specified sentences and their renderings in Arabic. Some possible renderings have been proposed in case of subjects’ renderings are inappropriate.

2. If Particle in English:

If clauses in English are one of the highly controversial subjects in current linguistic analysis. Haiman (1978: 564) mentions that neither linguists nor philosophers have suggested a coherent explication for ordinary language conditional. Most of them have not even entertained the notion that such an explication is possible. Eckersley & Eckersley (1960: 347-351) say that conditional clauses are of two kinds, distinguished by the form and meaning of the principal clauses: open conditions and hypothetical conditions. Each kind uses different tenses that can be used in open conditions. Consider the following examples from Eckersley & Eckersley (1960: 347-349)

1. ***If you are right, I am wrong. (present)***
2. ***If I made a mistake, I would try to remedy it. (past)***

whereas the future can not be used in the if-clause even when the meaning is future, e.g.

3. ***I shall go for a walk if the rain stops*.**

The form with (should + infinitive without to) in open conditions is used when the main clause is a command or question. e.g.

4. If he should come, please give him this book. (command)

5. If the train should be late, what will you do? (question)

whereas in hypothetical conditions the past subjunctive is used in the “if” clause and would or should + the infinitive is used in the main clause. Such sentences may refer to present time, past time or future time. e.g.

6. If the grass needed cutting, I would cut it.

It means “if the grass needed cutting now” (present)

7. ***If John had worked hard, he would have passed the examination***.

If means “he did not work hard” (past – implied negative)

8. If Richard worked hard next term, he would pass the examination. (future)

(Eckersley & Eckersley, 1960: 350)

Quirk et al. (1985: 1089) distinguish three types of “if” clauses depending on the tense they contain.

Type 1:

9. If he runs he’ll get there in time.

Type 2:

10. If I had a map I would lend it to you. (but I have not a map. The meaning here is present).

11. If someone tried to blackmail me I would tell the police. (the meaning here is future).

They think that type 2, like type 1, refers to the present or future and the past tense in the “if-clause” is not a true past but a subjunctive, which indicate unreality as in (10) or improbability as in (11).

Type 3:

12. If I had known that you were coming, I would have met you at the airport. (but I did not know, so I did not come).

They also think that these three types and their different variations can express different meaning such as ability,

permission, certain results, possibility, command, request or advice. e.g.

13. If your documents are in order, you can/may leave at once. (permission)

14. If we had found him earlier we could have saved his life. (ability)

15. If you want to lose weight you had better eat less bread. (advice)

Summing up, the different tenses of the three types of "if" clause can express different meanings.

3. The Speech Act of Conditionals:

The assumption that the meaning of conditional sentences can be determined solely by surface structure features such as tense and mood, severely restricts the exegetional task. The meaning of any utterance can not be understood apart from the speaker's intent, situational and linguistic context as well as the linguistic form (Young, 1989: 29).

Searl (1976: 1-24), Levinson (1983: 240) and Ferrari (2002: 11) mention that speech act conditionals are mainly directives, in the sense that their apodoses represent attempts by the speaker to get the addressee to do something. These directives can be requests, questions, orders, invitations, suggestions or advices. For instance, the future of the subjunctive occurs when the directive points to a future act of the hearer that will occur in the speaker's interest. Requests, invitations, questions and orders can be included in this case. On the other hand, the present of the indicative will be selected when the directive points to a future act of the hearer that is taken to occur in the hearer's own interest as in suggestions and advices. Consider the following example:

16. If you hate hearing people horning, listen to JB FM. (present)

in the advertisement above, the main goal is to persuade the audience to do something presented as an action that will take place in the hearer's interest. The suggestion is based on a cultural fact which allows the choice of the present tense in the protasis.

On the other hand, future tense conditionals can be found in requests and invitations such as the one presented below:

17. If you want, come to visit me. (future)
(Ferrari, 2002: 11-12)

Wunderlich (1977: 30-32) mentions that "conditional speech act" includes the following speech acts: to warn, to threaten, to advise, to reproach, to negotiate, to extort, to offer, to propose. Some of the listed speech acts can be realized by assertions of a certain kind, others by a certain kind of requests, some of them also by promises or even questions. Consider the following examples:

18. a. With such a toothache, I'd go to the dentist.
b. If you have such a toothache, go to the dentist.
c. Why don't you try a dentist?
d. I promise to find you a nice dentist who can do a painless extraction job.

He notices that the propositional content in (18.a. – d.) which is a conditional, supplies the addressee with a certain cognitive premise that he can use in his practical inferences. But how he uses it depends on his intentions, that is, in the end, on his needs, interests and preferences. For instance, an advice differs from a warning in that an advice relates to a positively evaluated consequential event, whereas a warning relates to a negatively evaluated one.

Wunderlich (1977: 36) also believes that conditional "if" can realize a strong advice, a weak advice and an assurance. Consider the following examples:

19. a. If you don't cover the ace, then you won't win.

b. Only if you cover the ace, you will win.

Both of these examples represent a strong advice since both deal with positive incidents, hence, there are no alternatives, while in dealing with indifferent incidents several alternatives are possible.

20. a. If you cover the ace, you will win.

b. Only if you don't cover the ace, you won't win.

The reason behind the fact that weak advice (20. a.) is better than (20. b.) is that the former is related to a practical inference, whereas the latter only states how to prevent something positive – which is not what the speaker had in mind.

21.* *If you don't tease the dog, you won't get bitten.(Wunderlich, 1977: 36).

The above sentence (21) represents an assurance because it only states what one can avoid. Consequently, one cannot find decisions on assurance. However, assurance can be used as restrictive terms in all kinds of decision-making.

Haigh, Stewart, Wood and Connell (2011:1) mention that failure to make an inference and accurately discriminate between speech acts can have serious consequences. For example, a patient reading the conditional advice "if you choose treatment X, then your quality of life will improve" could misinterpret this statement as a promise. So, they emphasize that "if" is important to understand exactly how everyday conditional speech acts are represented during comprehension.

The advice can be realized, too, by using first an imperative sentence and then a sentence in which one states the reason for the use of the imperative. For instance:

22. a. Cover the ace, otherwise you won't win.
b. Cover the ace, and you will win.
(Wunderlich, 1977: 35).

In (22. a. and b.) no difference is found between the strong advice and the warning. However, Wunderlich (1977: 35) thinks that warning is sometimes more effective if one starts with an imperative sentence and then continues with an explanation of what will happen if one does this or that. Consider the following examples:

23. Don't tease the dog, otherwise you will get bitten.

24. Watch out, or the ladder will fall down.

The request contained in the imperative sentence (23) renders the practical inference superfluous; the addressee only has to comply with the requests, then he will be out of danger. The second clause (24) states the reason for the request and makes the whole utterance a warning. "otherwise" and "or" can be understood as a fusion of the conjunction "because" with the antecedent of the standard form (warning):

25. Don't tease the dog, because if you do that, then you'll get bitten.

So, the characteristic conditional of the warning implies that performing a certain action is sufficient to create a negatively evaluated incident. The threat is of the same structure as the warning in the sense that the negative incident is one that can be cause by the speaker himself.

26. a. If you are late again, I'll fire you.
b. Don't tease the dog, or you will get thrashed.
(Haigh & others, 2011: 35).

Wunderlich (1977: 35) believes that the threat can also be expressed by using the speech act form of a promise. (See: Mey, 1993: 99)

27. Go to bed, or I promise you that I'll be angry with you.

He emphasizes that the literal meaning of performative verb doesn't always determine the kind of speech act that can be realized by its use. So, if the context shows that the negative consequence for the addressee only can be caused by the speaker, then, a literal warning, too is really a threat such as:

28. I warn you, don't touch me.

Wunderlich (1977: 43) also discusses two other conditional speech acts: the offer and the proposal. For instance:

29. ***Would you like a coffee***?

The above example expresses a question that can in specific contexts realize an offer as follows:

30. If you like a coffee, I'll give you one.

Evidently, the offer is a kind of conditional promises. The condition is that the addressee really does want the action to take place. The proposal can be realized by a conditional request or a cohortative. The condition is that the addressee does not want other or better actions to take place; an action is suggested to be performed either individually or collectively. Often the person making the proposed also expects an answer, hence the proposal, too, may be realized by a question as in the following example:

31. What about going to the movie?

In addition, Oliveira (2000: 98) mentions two conditional speech acts: invitation and suggestion as in the following examples:

32. If you are hungry, then there are cookies on the table. (invitation)

33. If you are in a hurry, then there is a taxi on the corner. (suggestion)

She believes that in the case of the following example: “If you are sleepy, the bed in the next room is made up”, the hearer may wonder whether the speaker’s principal intention is to invite the hearer to use the bed or to suggest that a nap is needed. However, even if the hearer believes the latter is the case, there still exists an implied invitation to use the bed for that purpose, so the degree of ambiguity is slight. Finally, it can be said that determining the meaning of conditional speech acts depends upon our pragmatic competence.

4. Kinds of Conditionals:

With respect to both meaning and use, conditionals are actually a heterogeneous class in which we may want to distinguish different kinds of them. So, Martin (2000, 232-234) makes a distinction between four types of conditionals as follows:

1. Epistemic Conditionals:

Epistemic conditionals are those like in (34a-b) in which, roughly speaking, the speaker reports on his/her conditional beliefs concerning propositions that could in principle be known but whose truth the speaker is subjectively uncertain of.

34. a- If Oswald did not shoot Kennedy, someone else did.
    b- If the butler has not killed her, the gardener must have.

The antecedent of epistemic conditionals could be analyzed as modifying, possibly implicitly; the epistemic modals: must and might.

2. Counterfactual Conditionals:

Counterfactual conditionals or counterfactual for short, are conditional as in (35 a-b) in which the antecedent has a backward – shifted tense and the consequent is in the subjunctive, usually so as to express counterfactuality in the

sense that the action is not assumed to be true by the speaker (or only very unlikely, or not endorsed as possible or sufficiently likely at the present stage of the conversation etc…).

35. a- If Kangaroos had no tails, they would topple over.

b- If I were a carpenter and you were a Lady, would you marry me anyway?

*3. **Predictive Conditionals**:*

Predictive conditionals are conditionals like in (36) in which a prediction is expressed about the occurrence of future courses of events whose occurrence is objectively uncertain and therefore cannot in principle be known.

36. If Andrea arrives late, Clara will be upset.

The antecedents of predictive conditionals could be analyzed as modifying, possibly implicitly, the future modals will and might.

*4**. Commissive Conditionals**:*

Commissive conditionals are conditional promises as in (37) and conditional threats as in (38) with which the speaker tries to exert influence on the hearer’s decision making.

37. ***I’ll lend you the book, if you lend me your bicycle tomorrow.***

38***. If Marth finds out about this, our friendship is over***.

Finally, Martin (2000, 233) mentions that commissive conditionals have consequents that are desirable or undesirable to the addressee. Still more importantly, what sets commissive conditionals off from predictive conditionals is that in the former the consequents refer to actions or events that are under speaker control while their antecedents are usually events under hearer control.

5***. Conditional Sentences and Particles in Arabic:***

Condition in Arabic includes a linguistic structure consisting of two parts. The first part is called the condition and the second part is called the consequence. The second part will be realized only if the first part is realized previously (Al-Makhzumiy, 1964: 284).

39. إن جاء خالدٌ جئتُ.

a. (Lit) if Khalid came, I came.
'in dʒaa'a Khalidun dʒi'tu.
b. If Khalid came, I should come.

The above sentence has two circumstances: " Khalid's coming" and the "speaker's coming". The speaker's coming depends on Khalid's coming. So, the fulfillment of the condition will lead to the fulfillment of the consequence and the opposite is also true.

Some grammarians such as (Al-Zajjaj, Al-Nahhas and Ibn Aqeel) cited in Al-Shamsan (1981: 70) define a conditional sentence as a complex sentence that consists of two inseparable clauses preceded by a conditional particle. The first clause is the conditional which can not be understood unless related to the main clause. Similarly, Tahhan (cited in al-Massaddiy & Al-Tarabulsiy, 1985: 21) defines the conditional sentence as a linguistic structure which consists of أداة الشرط (conditional particle) → فعل الشرط (conditional clause) → جواب الشرط (consequent clause). These two clauses are related by the conditional particle in a way that makes no one clause imagined to be independent of the other one just like cause and effect.

Al-Makhzumiy (1964: 290-291) states that there are two types of Arabic conditional particles: the first is originally conditional such as (إنْ) and (إذما) whereas the second type is mixed with other meanings to refer to persons, things, places,

circumstances but they are used as conditionals such as (من ، ما ، أين ، …etc.).

Aziz (1989: 224) mentions four particles (لولا ، لو ، إذا ، إنْ). (إنْ) and (إذا) are used to express open condition (Factual & Predictive), (لو) and (لولا) are used to express rejected condition (imaginative), while (إنْ) is used with doubted events and (لو) with hypothetical or impossible events.

40. إن يسافر أسافر معه.

a. Lit. If he travels, I travel with him.
'in jusaafir usaafir ma<ahu.
b. If he travels, I’ll travel with him.

41. لو يسافر أسافر معه.

a. Lit. If he travels, I travel with him.
Law jusaafir usaafir ma<ahu.
b. If he travels, I’ll travel with him.

The use of the perfect and the imperfect after these particles is often neutralized and the time of clause is determined by the linguistic or situational context. Thus, the perfect which is probably more used in these clauses than the imperfect, may refer to the present or future besides the past.

42. إن سافر سافرت معه.

a. Lit. If he travelled, I travelled with him.
'in saafara saafartu ma<ahu.
b. If he travels, I’ll travel with him.

43. لو سافر سافرت معه.

a. Lit. If he travelled, I travelled with him.
Law saafara saafartu ma<ahu.
b. If he travelled, I would travel with him.

(ibid.)

In the above examples, it can be noticed that both these particles are rendered into English by the conditional particle “if”. In what follows, some of the conditional particles which are closely related to the subject under investigation will be tackled in some detail.

1. إنْ /in/:

(إنْ) is the most important Arabic conditional particle which originally refers to condition. Semanticists (Al-Aswad, 2005: 66) note that (إنْ) is used with non-assertive things; those about their happening we are quite sure:

44. إن يزرك خالدٌ أزرك .

'in jazurka Khalidun 'azurka.

If Khalid visits you, I’ll visit you too.

(Al-Makhzumiy, 1964: 290)

Its time is contextual as it may refer to past, present or future. The main function of (إنْ) is to convert the past tense into the future. The reason behind that is that only the future may be fulfilled or not fulfilled and this is applied to the definition of “إنْ” which implies uncertainty about the actions referred to (Al-Aswad, 2005: 67).

45. أ – إن فعلت هذا عوقبت.

a. *'in fa<alta haatha <uuqibta*.

If you did this, you would be punished.

ب– إن تفعل هذا تعاقب.

b. *'in taf<al haatha tu<aaqab*.

If you do this, you will be punished.

(Kharma and Hajjaj, 1989: 140)

So, the particle (إنْ) is used for open condition only .

2. إذا /itha/:

The problem related to this particle is that it occupies a place between condition and time and may be rendered into English by "if" or "when" (Al-Masaddiy & Al-Tarabulsiy, 1985: 9; Aziz, 1989: 294-295).

46. إذا احترمت صديقك إحترمك.

'itha 'ihtaramta sadiiqaka 'ihtramaka.

If you respect your friend, he will also respect you.

47. إذا جاء الربيع اعتدل المناخ.

'itha dʒaa'a-rrabii<u 'i<tadala al-manaakhu.

When spring comes, the weather becomes moderate.

Al-Ghalaajiiniy (1971: 195) makes a distinction between (إنْ /in/) and (إذا /itha/) in that (إنْ) is used for uncertain things whereas (إذا) still seems to give a greater degree of certainty. So, if you say:

48. إن جئت أكرمتك.

'in dʒi'ta akramtuka.

If you came, I would receive you cordially. (the addressee's coming is uncertain).

49. إذا جئت أكرمتك.

Itha dʒi'ta akramtuka.

If you come, I'll receive you cordially. (the addressee's coming is certain).

The time here with (إذا) is also contextual, so it is variable (Al-Muttalibiy, 1986: 87-88).

3. لَوْ /law/:

It is a conditional particle that refers to something supposed not to take place; that is not likely to happen or involves a condition contrary to fact or impossible. It means "the non-fulfillment of the condition and necessarily means that the consequence will not be fulfilled as in:

50. لو جئتني أكرمتك.

Law dʒi'tani akramtuka.

If you came to me, I would be generous with you.
(Al-Makhzumiy, 1964: 290)

The first important function of (لو) is wish and second it is used as a conditional particle. There may be a relation between wish and condition which is impossible. This means that (لو) has different contextual meanings (Al-Muttalibiy, 1986: 95) as in:

51. لو تأتني فتحدثني.

Law ta'tini fatuHaddiThuni.

I wish you came to me so that you would talk to me.
(Al-Masddiy & Al-Tarabulsiy, 1985: 56)

Its time reference is variable since it may refer to past and here it is called (impossible لو) and the second, which is less used, refers to future and it is called (conditional particle referring to future equivalent to إن) (Al-Muttalibiy, 1986: 99).

52. لو تصفحته لرأيت حسابي غير المدفوع.

Law taSafaHtahu lar'aita Hisabii ghairiL madfuu<.

If you could leaf through it, you would find my account still unpaid. (impossible لو referring to past).

53. ربما لو درى لان فؤاده قليلاً.

Rubbama law dara laana fuaaduhu qaliilan.

Perhaps, if he knew (that), his heart would soften a little. (لو is equivalent to إن). (Cantarino, 1975: 321).

Summing up, (لو) can express different contextual meanings such as hypothetical condition, wish, impossibility and uncertainty.

4. إذما /***ithma***/:

The particle (إذ) is not used to refer to condition unless combined with (ما). Sebawayhi defines (إذما) as a conditional particle and it is just like (إن) because it is followed by two verbs in the jussive mood (Al-Muradiy, 1974: 472).

54. إذما تدرس تنجح.

'ithma tadrus tandʒaH.

If you study , you will pass.

(Nasr, 1967: 161)

in addition, Al-Ghalajiiniy (1971: 191-192) states that (إذما) is a compound particle; it functions just like (إنْ) since it has no meaning such as other particles but to relate the conditional clause with the consequent clause.

Al-Muttalibiy (1986: 105), on the other hand, mentions that this particle can be used without (ما) such as:

55. وأنت تأكل إذ تجوع.

Wa 'anta t'akul 'ith tadʒuu<.

You eat if you feel hungry.

Moreover, it has different contextual meanings and different time reference.

5. لولا / ***lawla***/:

The meaning of this complex particle is “but, except for” or “had it not been for” (Kharma & Hajjaj, 1989: 141). It is the negative form of (لو). So, (لولا) is (لو) plus (لا) (if … not). However, it signifies the non-fulfillment of the consequent because of the truth of antecedent as in:

56. لولا عليٌّ لهلك عمر.

Lawla Alijjun lahalaka Omar.

Where it not for Ali, Omar would die. (Matar, 1985: 21)

The reference of the sentence introduced by (لولا) is necessarily a past time. Thus, it is used with a hypothetical condition (Al-Muttalibiy, 1986: 126). Cantarino (1975: 326-327), on the other hand, adds that (لولا) “if not”, always introduces a single member and hypothetically negates its existence: “if it were not for”. It may be followed by a single noun in the nominative case. In this construction, the main clause is usually subsequent to the subordinate clause and is frequently but not necessarily introduced by the emphatic particle “لـ” as in the example above. (Al-Aswad, 2005: 74).

6. ***Translation of Literary Texts:***

Catford (1965: 65) states that literary translation is rank-free, i.e. not restricted to a certain grammatical rank. According to this type of translation, the translator aims at reproducing a similar effect on the TL receiver as that of the SL one. The translator is not interested in the SL text as a form, but in the message and how to express it in the TL. The translator should take the norms of the TL into consideration so that he would be able to translate literature into literature (See: Pound, 1995: 96; Shen, 1995: 219).

In literary translation, language has more than a communicative or social and connective purpose. The word

functions as the "primary elements" of literature, that is, it has an aesthetic function. Between the inception and the completion of a creative work of translation, a complex process takes place in the fabric of imagery of the work being translated. Therefore, the problems of literary translation are within the sphere of art and are subject to its specific laws.

Literary translation differs from literary creativity in that its existence depends on the existence of an object of translation, a work to be translated. However, in the actual literary process, it is not always possible to draw a distinction between translation and all creative literature. In quite a few instances, a work may not be a translation in the usual sense, but it may not be possible to describe it unreservedly as a work of literary creativity. Other labels are used to designate these works: "free translation" and "imitation". The specific meanings of these resignations differ depending on the language and the period (The Great Encyclopedia: 2010).

7. ***Data Analysis:***

The data which will be analyzed have been selected from Arther Miller's <u>A View from The Bridge</u> (1957). Two translations of Arther Miller's by Sabah (1999) and Abullail (2002) have been chosen and TL renderings will be analyzed from speech act theory perspective.

SL Text (1):

Eddie: Beautiful. Turn around, lemme see in the back. [She turns for him.] Oh, if your mother was alive to see you now! She wouldn't believe it.

Context:

Catherine changes her hair's style and Eddie asks her to turn around to see her, so he wished her mother to be alive to see her.

TL Texts:

1. إدي: جميل. دودري دعيني أراه من الخلف [تستدير له]. أوه، لو كانت أمك حية لتراك الآن! فلن تصدق عينيها.
2. إدي: جميل. استديري ودعيني أراه من الخلف [تستدير له]. آه لو كانت أمك على قيد الحياة لتراك الآن! ما كانت لتصدق ذلك.
3. ***TL Text Analysis:***

In this utterance, we find the second type of "if" clause in which the verb in the "if" clause is in past and the conditional sentence refers to the present. The past tense in the "if" clause is not a true past but a subjunctive, which indicates unreality. This means that the above utterance expresses a counterfactual condition in the sense that the action is not assumed to be true by the speaker. The two translators have succeeded in conveying this into Arabic by using (لو) which is a conditional particle that refers to something supposed not to take place; that is not likely to happen or involves a condition contrary to fact or impossible. A better choice for translating the above example will be as follows:

إدي: جميل. إستديري ودعيني أراه من الخلف [تستدير له]. آه، أتمنى لو كانت أمك على قيد الحياة لتراك الآن! ما كانت لتصدق ذلك.

SL Text (2):

Cahterine: Eddie, it's the style now. [she walks to show him.] I mean, if you see me walkin' down the street.

Context:

Catherine wears a very short skirt, she aspires Eddie to see her when she walks down the street.

TL Texts:

1. كاثرين: إدي، إنها الموضة الآن. [تمشي لتريه] أعني، إذا ما رأيتني أمشي في الشارع.

2. كاثرين: إدي، إنها الموضة الآن. [تسير لتريه] أعني، إذا رأيتني أسير في الشارع.

TL Text Analysis:

The two translators translated “if” into “إذا” which does not convey the exact meaning which is “wish”. By “wish”, the speaker wants something to happen or to be true even though it is unlikely or impossible. So, the conditional of this sentence is counterfactual in which the action is not assumed to be true by the speaker. Rendering the particle “if” into “إذا” distorts the meaning intended by the speaker; thus, it is more reliable to use the particle “لو” that refers to hypothetical events, as in:

كاثرين: إدي، إنها الموضة الآن. [تستدير لتريه] أعني، أتمنى لو تراني أسير في الشارع.

SL Text (3):

Eddie: listen; if everybody keeps his mouth shut, nothin’ can happen. They’ll pay for their board.

Context:

Eddie tells Beatrice that her two cousins will arrive after two hours but she becomes nervous because she has not expected their arrival at that time and her kitchen is not well-prepared to receive her cousins. So, Eddie advises her to be quiet and not to be rush.

TL Texts:

1. إدي: إسمعي، إذا ما أغلق كل واحدٍ فمه، لن يحصل شيء وسيسدان نفقات سفرهما.

2. إدي: إسمعي، إذا أغلق كل واحدٍ فمه، فلن يحدث شيء. سيدفعان لقاء إقامتهما معنا.

TL Text Analysis:

In the above example, the speaker expresses his "advice" to the hearer by using "if". An advice relates to a positively evaluated consequential event. This speech act is considered directive which points to a future act of the hearer that is taken to occur in the hearer's own interest. Thus, it can be said that this sentence represents a predictive conditional in which a prediction the occurrence of future course of events is objectively uncertain and therefore cannot in principle be known. In Arabic also, both translators used the same strategy especially the particle "إذا" which is used to express a predictive condition but the first one has failed in conveying the second part when he translated (they'll pay for their board) into (سيسدان نفقات سفرهما) (sajasuddaan nafaqaati safarihima. *Lit*.: they will pay for their travel) since it is not the intended meaning of the speaker. Therefore, it is believed that the second translation will be the more appropriate one.

SL Text (4):
Catherine: I'm the best student, he says, and if I want, I should take the job and the end of the year he'll let me take the examination and he'll give me the certificate. So I'll save practically a year!

Context:

Catherine tells Eddie that her headmaster offers her a job in a company as a clerk because she is the best student in her class and if she likes to do that he'll let her take her exam and he'll give her the certificate at the end of the year.

TL Texts:

1. كاثرين: أنا أفضل طالبة، هو قال لي، وإذا ما أردت أن أعمل سأباشر في الشركة وفي نهاية السنة سيجعلني أقوم بالاختبار وسيعطيني الشهادة. وهكذا سأوفر عملياً سنة!
2. كاثرين: قال لي إنني أفضل طالبة، ويمكنني إذا أردت أن التحق بالعمل وسيسمح لي في نهاية العام أن أتقدم للامتحان وسيعطيني الشهادة وهكذا سوف أوفر تقريباً سنة كاملة!

TL Text Analysis:

In this utterance, the speaker uses "if" to express the offer. Since "offering" is considered a kind of conditional promise, the condition is that the addressee really does want the action to take place. Hence, this is an epistemic conditional in which the speaker reports on the conditional beliefs concerning propositions that could in principle be known but the speaker is subjectively uncertain of its truth. Both translators have used "إذا" and the first one adds the particle "ما". So, it is better to use "إذما" which is a compound particle; it has no meaning but to relate the conditional clause with the consequent clause. Also, he translated "let me take the examination" into "سيجعلني أقوم بالاختبار" (saya*dʒ*<aluni 'aquumu bil-'ikhtibaar. *Lit.*: he will give me a permission to do the exam) which should be "سيسمح لي بأداء الإمتحان" (sajasmaHu li bi'adaa'il-'imtiHaan) because the first translator failed to make an inference and discriminate between what he has translated which means "obligation" and "offering" which is the intended meaning by the speaker. To add, in Arabic the word "إداء" "'idaa' " collocates with "إمتحان" "'imtiHaan". thus, the proposed rendering will be:

كاثرين: يقول إنـي أفضـل طالبـة وإذما أردت فبإمكـاني العمـل فـي الشركة وفـي نهايـة السنة سيسمح لي بأداء الامتحان وسيمنحني الشهادة. وهكذا سأوفر عملياً سنة!

SL Text (5):

Eddie: Because most people ain't people. She's goin' to work; plumbers, they'll chew her to pieces if she don't watch out.

Context:

Catherine is going to work and she tells Eddie that she'll fix up the whole house with her first pay. Eddie said that she did not know anything because she has been a housewife and asked her not to trust anybody because she never worked all her life.

TL Texts:

1. إدي: لأن أغلب الناس ليسوا ناساً. إنها ستذهب للعمل، للسبّاكين الذين ستلوكها ألسنتهم قطعة قطعة إن لم تطل عليهم.
2. إدي: لأن معظم الناس ليسوا أناساً. إنها ستعمل مع سباكين، سيمضغونها قطعاً إذا لم تكن على حذر.

TL Text Analysis:

In English, the speaker expresses his warning by using conditional sentence. The characteristic conditional of the warning implies that performing a certain action is sufficient to create a negatively evaluated incident. In this case, we find a commissive conditional in which the speaker tires to exert influence on the hearer's decision making. i.e. commissive conditionals have consequences that are desirable or undesirable to the hearer. As for translation, the two translators have translated the conditional clause differently since the first one has translated it into "إن لم تطل عليهم" ('in lam tuTil <alajhim) which distorts the intended meaning by the speaker whereas the second

one has translated it into "إذا لم تكن على حذر" ('itha lam takun <ala Hathar). Using "إن" in this context is better than "إذا" since it is used to refer to past, present and future. Thus, the proposed rendering should be:

إدي: لأن معظم الناس لا يتحلون بصفات البشر، وإنها ستعمل مع سباكين، فلن تسلم من ألسنتهم إن لم تكن على حذر.

SL Text (6):

Rodolpho: Nothing. But if there are many passengers and you're lucky you make a few lire to push the taxi up the hill.

Context:

Rodolpho tells Beatrice that there is no work in his town. Everybody stands all the day waiting only for the train in order to drive the taxi up the hill.

TL Texts:

1. رودولفو: لا شي، لكن إذا كان هناك الكثير من المسافرين وحالفك الحظ تستطيعين أن تكسبي بضعة ليرات لقاء دفع سيارة الأجرة أعلى الهضبة.
2. رودولوفو: لا شيء، ولكن إذا كان هناك الكثير من المسافرين وأسعدك الحظ، فبإمكانك أن تكسب بعض الليرات مقابل دفع التاكسي إلى أعلى التلة.

TL Text Analysis:

In the ST, the speaker expresses his suggestion by using "if". In suggestions, the present of the indicative is selected when the directive points to a future act of the hearer that is taken to occur in the hearer's own interest. According to what

has been said, the conditional of this sentence is predictive since the occurrence of the prediction about future course of event is objectively uncertain. Therefore, it cannot in principle be known. Both translators have translated "if" into "إذا" which can be used in this context to express an open condition (predictive condition). Consequently, they should have used the verb "اقترح" instead of "تستطيعين" and "بإمكانك" to convey the intended meaning correctly. So, the proposed rendering will be:

رودولفو: لا شيء، لكن إذا كان هناك الكثير من المسافرين وحالفك الحظ فاقترح قيادة سيارة الأجرة أعلى التله للحصول على بضعة ليرات.

The above rendering will be a better alternative since using the verb "أقترِحْ" "aqtariH" which expresses the intended speech act obviously will remove the misinterpretation caused by the two translators.

SL Text (7):

Marco: if we can stay here a few months, Beatrice.

Context:

Marco and Rodolpho want to stay in Beatrice's house in order to work to get more money.

TL Texts:

1. ماركو: إذا كان بإمكاننا البقاء هنا بضعة شهور، بياتريس.
2. ماركو: لو نستطيع أن نبقى هنا لبضعة أشهر، بياتريس.

TL Text Analysis:

In this utterance, the speaker chooses to express his "request" by using "if". By request, the speaker attempts to get the addressee to do something in the speaker's interest. This means that the utterance expresses a predictive conditional

since the occurrence of the future event which is "staying in Beatrice's house" in this context is objectively uncertain. In Arabic, both translators conveyed this differently by different particles "إذا" and "لو". The first translator has failed to convey the intended meaning by using "إذا" since this particle is used to give a great degree of certainty, whereas the main function of "لو" is wish. So, we can say that the second translator has conveyed the intended meaning of the speaker successfully.

SL Text (8):

Rodolpho: Oh, sure! It's a feature in our town. The horses in our town are skinnier that goats. So if there are too many passengers we help to push the carriages up to the hotel.

Context:

Rodolpho says that he and Marco work anything, sometimes they stand around all day in the Piazza waiting only for the train. If there are many passengers, they help to push the carriages up to the hotel saying that in their town the horses are only for show.

TL Texts:

1. رودولفو: أوه، طبعاً، إنها ميزة في مدينتنا. فالجياد في مدينتنا أنحف من المعز لذلك إذا كان هناك الكثير من المسافرين نساعد في دفع العربات حتى الفندق.
2. رودولفو: بكل تأكيد! إنها ظاهرة مألوفة في بلدتنا. فالأحصنة في بلدتنا أهزل من الماعز لذا إذا كان هناك الكثير من المسافرين فإننا نساعد على دفع العربات أعلى التلة إلى الفندق.

TL Text Analysis:

In the ST, the speaker chooses to express his dissatisfaction of his town indirectly by using "if clauses". In this sentence, we find an Epistemic conditional since the speaker reports on the conditional beliefs concerning propositions that could be known but whose truth he is subjectively uncertain of. When the text is rendered into Arabic, we find that both translators have used "إذا" which is a suitable particle in this case since it is used to show a great degree of certainty but it is better to put consequent in future by using "سـ" "siin" to be "سنُساعِد" "sanusaa<id" to convey the intended meaning. Also, "up to the hotel" should be translated into "نحو الفندق" "naHwa alfunduq" instead of "حتى/إلى الفندق" "hatta\'ila alfunduq" to avoid literal translation. Thus, the following rendering could be a better alternative:

رودولفو: بكل تأكيد! إنها ميزة في مدينتنا. فالجياد في مدينتنا أنحف من المعز لذلك إذا كان هناك الكثير من المسافرين فإننا سنساعد في دفع العربات نحو الفندق.

SL Text (9):

Marco: Because I could send them a little more if I stay here.

Context:

Marco tells Beatrice that he can send his family more money if he stays in her house for a few months.

TL Texts:

1. ماركو: إني بهذا أستطيع أن أرسل لهم المزيد.
2. ماركو: لأني أستطيع أن أرسل لهم مزيداً من المال إذا بقيت هنا.

TL Text Analysis:

In performing this conditional clause, the speaker expresses his ability to do the action by using the modal auxiliary “could” in the past instead of “can” to be more polite. Hence, this conditional is considered predictive because the happening of the future event which is “sending the money” in this sentence is uncertain since it depends on “staying in Beatrice’s house.” In Arabic, this strategy is realized by the use of certain verbs such as “يستطيع” “jastaTii<, *Lit.*: can” and “يمكن” “jumkin, *Lit.*: can”. As far as translation is concerned, both translators have translated “could” into “يستطيع” but the first one avoided translating the conditional clause. Thus, it can be said that the first translator has failed to convey the intended meaning whereas the second one has succeeded in that due to using the present verb “أستطيع” as a suitable equivalent for the model auxiliary verb “could” as well as “إذا” which is used to express “certainty”.

SL Text (10):

Eddie: Yeah, but what about it if the only reason for it is to get this papers?

Context:

Rodolpho who is an immigrant falls in love with Catherine. Eddie (her uncle) asks the lawyer what they will do if the only aim for him is getting the American Identity Card.

TL Texts:

1. إدي: أجل، ولكن ماذا لو أن السبب الوحيد في ذلك هو أن يحصل على أوراقه؟

2. إدي: نعم، ولكن ماذا لو كان هدفه الوحيد هو الحصول على أوراقه؟

TL Text Analysis:

The speaker chooses to express his question by using the "if" particle. The reference to the question is also done directly by using an interrogative particle "what". In a question, the speaker attempts to get the addressee to do something. Since the occurrence of the future event is uncertain, it can be said that this sentence has a predictive conditional. In Arabic, both translators have used the interrogative particle "ماذا" as an equivalent to "what" as well as "لو" which is used to refer to something supposed not to take place to be a suitable equivalent to "if" and convey the meaning of the utterance under investigation. Thus, we can say that both translations are appropriate. However, a more appropriate rendering could be the following: نعم، ولكن ماذا لو كان هدفه الوحيد هو الحصول على أوراقه؟, since the translator used "هدف" "hadaf" which conveys the force of the message as a better equivalent for "reason" than "سبب" "sabab" which can be considered as a literal translation.

8. Findings and Conclusions:

From the analysis of the extracts derived from "A View from the Bridge" and their renderings into Arabic, we conclude the following:

–English uses "if" particle to express conditional speech acts more than Arabic since Arabic uses many particles as equivalent to "if". This means that there is no one to one correspondent between English and Arabic.

–Both English and Arabic realize real and unreal conditions differently since English depends on the verbal elements of both conditional and consequent clauses whereas Arabic

depends on the conditional particle (إن) & (لو) because (إن) is used to refer to real and (لو) to refer to unreal condition.

– Translators sometimes failed in giving the suitable equivalent of English conditional particle since they did not know its meaning.

– Since the current study is a pragmatic one, the determination of the meaning of “if” will depend on the context of situation. So, we find that “if” can express different meanings apart from conditional such as: command, warning, threatening, promising … etc.

– With reference to translation, this study provides some insights into how to be aware of the misunderstanding that may occur in the process of translation. Thus, a translator has to take context into consideration in addition to the sentential level in decoding the message.

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A Key to Transliteration Symbols

n	ن	**Z**	ظ	**th**	ذ	**(aglottal stop)**	ء
h	هـ	<	ع	**r**	ر	**b**	ب
w	و	**gh**	غ	**z**	ز	**t**	ت
j	ي	**f**	ف	**s**	س	**Th**	ث
q			ق	**sh**	ش	**dʒ**	ج
k			ك	**S**	ص	**H**	ح
l			ل	**dh**	ض	**kh**	خ
m			م	**T**	ط	**d**	د

Consonants:

Short Vowels:

Long Vowels:

a	فتحة (َ)
u	ضمة (ُ)
i	كسرة (ِ)

aa	ا
uu	و
ii	ي

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”إذا“ الشرطية وترجمتها إلى العربية:

دراسة براغماطيقية

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المستخلص

يتناول هذا البحث دراسة ”إذا“ الشرطية وترجمتها إلى العربية في ضوء نظرية فعل القول والتي يمكن أن تعد وسيلة مفيدة لجعل التفكير أقرب إلى المعنى الذي يقصده المتكلم/الكاتب، وبعد تحليل جمل الشرط في ضوء صيغة الفعل وزمانه تحليلاً وافياً لا يوضح سوى جزء من المعنى، وإن دراسة مشكلة ”إذا“ الشرطية من عدة جوانب عادة ما ينتج عنها فهم للفكرة، وبالتالي نقل أفضل للمعنى من لغة إلى أخرى، ويفترض هذا البحث في حال عدم تناول المترجم الشرط براغماطيقياً حسب نظرية فعل القول فإنَّه لن يكون قادراً على فهمه، وإن فعل ففهمه وتفكيره للشرط لن يكون دقيقاً بما فيه الكفاية ولن يمكنه من الوصول إلى ترجمة مناسبة.

ومن المؤمل أن يساهم تطبيق وجهة النظر هذه بشكل إيجابي على نظرية الترجمة وتطبيقاتها .